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On the Periodic Return of the Solar Spots.

(*Comptes Rendus, Nov.* 8, 1852.)

M. Wolf, Director of the Observatory of Berne, mentions, in a letter to M. Arago, that he has recently been engaged in researches on the solar spots, and has arrived at some interesting conclusions on the subject. By a comparison of all the observations of the spots made from the epoch of their discovery down to the present time, he has discovered that the number visible upon the surface of the sun in the course of a year recurs at regular intervals of time. The mean duration of the period comprised between two maxima or minima he finds to be 11·111 ± 0·038 years, which, he says, agrees much better with the variations in declination of the magnetic needle than the corresponding period of $10\frac{1}{3}$ years assigned by M. Lamont. He has also ascertained, that the years during which the spots have been most numerous, have been also the driest and most fertile, agreeably to a remark of Sir William Herschel's.

Note sur la Disposition la plus favorable à donner aux Appareils destinées à atténuer les Vibrations de la Surface du Mercure, et sur les Moyens d'approprier les Appareils à l'Usage des Instrumens méridiens. Par M. Mauvais.

(*Comptes Rendus, Nov.* 15, 1852.)

M. Mauvais had previously communicated the details of a series of experiments, by which it was found that the oscillations of the mercury were almost completely extinguished when the vessel containing it was suspended by an elastic substance composed of vulcanised caoutchouc. In the present note he proposes the following mode of applying this principle to meridional observations.

In a horizontal plank four vertical bars are inserted, and to their extremities are attached an equal number of straps of caoutchouc, having their lower ends fixed in a circular horizontal plate destined to receive the vessel containing the mercury. In order to maintain the circular plate in a steady position, a rod is attached underneath at the centre of the plate, carrying at its extremity a heavy ball.

Note de M. Faye sur les dernières Resultats publiées par M. De Struve relativement à la 61^e du Cygne.

(*Comptes Rendus, Nov.* 22, 1852.)

In this note M. Faye calls attention to the fact that M. Struve, in his recently-published Dorpat Catalogue, has announced that, during the last hundred years, the relative motion of the components of this star has been sensibly uniform and rectilinear. This result essentially vitiates all the calculations that have been hitherto made respecting the orbit and mass of the star.

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The instruments of the late Dr. Pearson are at present on sale; they may be viewed at Mr. Ross's, 2 Featherstone Buildings, Holborn. Among many valuable articles, the *Azimuth and Altitude instrument*, designed and partly constructed by Troughton, but finished and divided originally by Thomas Jones, and the *Astronomical Telescope*, 6½ inches, ground by Tully, from glass presented by Guignand to the Astronomical Society, may be mentioned as remarkable instruments.

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